

Montana in the National Register: 56 for 56

A few years ago, NPS released a National Register brochure poster that highlights the number of National Register listings in each county across the country. We in Montana noticed right away that there was a glaring white spot in our southeast corner – Carter County had no listings! Anticipating the 50th NHPA anniversary, and to celebrate the unique history of that remote part of Montana, we made a commitment to fill that hole. Serendipitously, the town of Ekalaka had recently completed an award-winning rehabilitation of a delightful Moderne commercial block. The community used ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act)) and USDA Rural Development funds as well as donations from Summit National Bank, TransCanada, local residents, Carter County, and Oneok, to repurpose the building as the town hall and library.

The Ekalaka Town Clerk, Lisa Jourdan, not only directed the remarkably sensitive and appropriate rehabilitation, she provided a mountain of research, including historic photos, newspaper articles, local histories, and oral interviews, to complete the National Register nomination authored by MT SHPO NR Coordinator John Boughton. As a result, The First National Bank of Ekalaka and Rickard Hardware Store Building was listed in the NR on November 19, 2015. It constitutes the first listing in Carter County, and now each of Montana's 56 counties are represented in the NR.

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/15000815.pdf>



Thanks to NPS for updating the map online!

http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/NR_Brochure_Poster/NR_Brochure_Poster.pdf